

2008

# Landscape Installation Project for HORT 342: Landscape Installation and Establishment

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## Recommended Citation

VanDerZanden, Ann M., "Landscape Installation Project for HORT 342: Landscape Installation and Establishment" (2008). *Iowa State Research Farm Progress Reports*. 691.

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# Landscape Installation Project for HORT 342: Landscape Installation and Establishment

## **Abstract**

This is the third year students in the fall landscape construction class have installed a new landscape at one of ISU's research farms. (In 2005 and 2006 the course number was HORT 444; and it was changed to HORT 342 in 2007.) In 2005 students completed an extensive project at the Ag Engineering/Agronomy Farm west of Ames. In 2006 and again this year, students installed new landscape plantings at the Horticulture Station in Ames.

## **Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Horticulture

# Landscape Installation Project for HORT 342: Landscape Installation and Establishment

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## Introduction

This is the third year students in the fall landscape construction class have installed a new landscape at one of ISU's research farms. (In 2005 and 2006 the course number was HORT 444; and it was changed to HORT 342 in 2007.) In 2005 students completed an extensive project at the Ag Engineering/Agronomy Farm west of Ames. In 2006 and again this year, students installed new landscape plantings at the Horticulture Station in Ames.

## Project Overview

In consultation with the station superintendent Nick Howell, a suitable site for the class project was selected and a landscape design was developed. The area selected was along the entire north side of the main building. The intent was to improve the appearance of the facility, make the entrance into the building wider and ADA (American with Disability Act) accessible, and provide a seating area in front of the building. All of these improvements will enhance a visitor's initial impression of the facility.

Once the design was approved, we worked with Nick Howell to secure the necessary building materials. We used new materials as well as materials which had been stockpiled at the station. The design included a paver border that was three feet wide on either side of the main entrance and an 11 ft × 11 ft paver patio

(Figure 1). In addition, a large planting bed was installed along the length of the north side of the building. Plant material was selected for its low maintenance and drought tolerance characteristics. A majority of the plants were purchased, while some came from dividing ornamental grasses from the collection already at the station. Station personnel were instrumental in coordinating delivery of hardscape and plant materials as well as initial site preparation and daily clean up of the construction area.

The project was installed during the weekly 2-hour lab sessions for HORT 342. There were 24 students enrolled in the course and the project took three lab sections to complete. This is equivalent to 142 man-hours (Figure 2).

## Future Plans

Additional project areas are currently being reviewed and developed in preparation for fall semester 2008 and beyond. The goal of incorporating installation projects located at the Horticulture Station into the HORT 342 course each fall is to provide students with beneficial hands-on learning activities. An additional benefit of this collaboration is that these projects will enhance the landscaped areas of the facility.

## Acknowledgements

Appreciation for facilitating this important student learning opportunity is extended to Nick Howell and Mark Honeyman. Sincere thanks are given to Chris Blume at the Horticulture Station for all of his help with the project.



**Figure 1. HORT 342 students working with Chris Blume on the initial site preparation for the project.**



**Figure 2. HORT 342 students with the project underway and getting rained off the job site.**